

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior listings and versions:

1-24. (canceled).

25. (currently amended): A method for quantitating replication defective alphavirus replicon particles comprising:

- a) providing a population of packaging cells;
- b) contacting said packaging cells with said replication defective alphavirus replicon particles under conditions suitable and for a time sufficient for said cells to be infected with said replication defective alphavirus replicon particles;
- c) incubating said infected packaging cells under conditions suitable and for a time sufficient for production of progeny of said replication defective alphavirus replicon particles;
- d) enumerating the number of resulting plaques, thereby quantitating said replication defective alphavirus replicon particles.

26. (currently amended): The method according to claim 25, wherein said packaging cells express all structural proteins necessary for production of progeny of said replication defective alphavirus replicon particles.

27. (original): The method according to claim 25, wherein said packaging cells comprise at least one expression cassette expressing an alphavirus capsid protein and at least one alphavirus glycoprotein.

28. (original): The method according to claim 25, wherein said packaging cells express an alphavirus capsid protein and at least one alphavirus glycoprotein from distinct expression cassettes.

29. (previously presented): The method of claim 27, wherein said at least one expression cassette expresses E1 and E2 glycoproteins.

30. (previously presented): The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of overlaying said infected cells with a layer of agarose.

31. (canceled).